



Assessing a State Role in Financing Conveyance: Preliminary Findings and Conclusions

Introduction

As directed by the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Commission has assessed a State role in financing conveyance projects to meet the needs of a changing climate. The Commission hosted expert presentations at Commission meetings and regional public workshops. The Commission used the information gathered from experts and public stakeholders to inform a white paper describing key issues and considerations, including findings and conclusions for state policymakers to consider as they weigh the financing options for water conveyance infrastructure. In developing its findings and conclusions, the Commission considered:

- The characteristics of resilient conveyance and how a conveyance project demonstrably contributes to climate resilience.
- The public benefits associated with conveyance projects, which ones the state may want to fund, and how the state might value those benefits.
- The financing mechanisms that project proponents can use to help advance conveyance projects that help meet needs in a changing climate.

At this meeting, Commission staff will present the preliminary draft of the white paper for Commission discussion. Commission staff will incorporate feedback received from the Commission and the public to produce a final draft of the white paper that will be presented to the Commission at the June meeting.

Background

On July 28, 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture issued the final [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) (portfolio) in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-10-19, which calls for a "set of actions to meet California water needs through the 21st century." The portfolio outlines a broad suite of actions designed to move the state toward water resilience. The portfolio calls on the Commission to fulfill Action 19.4: assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate. Action 19.4 is embedded in a section of the portfolio that is focused on building connections, which includes actions designed to help increase physical connections and coordination between and among the decentralized elements of California's water system.

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The Commission’s work on conveyance implements Goal One of the Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to “serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency ... including those actions of the Water Resilience Portfolio assigned to the Commission.”

Meeting Overview

Assistant Executive Officer Laura Jensen will present the draft white paper to the Commission and will then solicit feedback from the Commission and the public.

This is an informational item.

Contact

Laura Jensen

Assistant Executive Officer

California Water Commission

(916) 712-7051